

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/785,323

Applicant(s)

MATSUDA, KOUICHI

Examiner

VIJAY SHANKAR

Art Unit

2629

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Examiner Amendment 7/2/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-2,5-9, Renumbered as 1-7.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.


THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 4/13/07
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.


VIJAY SHANKAR
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 2629

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Michael Kelly on 7/2/07.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 6, lines 17 through 18, please amend as follows:

FIG. 7 is an oblique view, like a three-dimensional appearance, of button images displayed on the screen of the touch panel 204 when the user has pushed a button 4 3.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the claims as follows:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A display device comprising:

a touch panel having displayed thereon a plurality of input buttons operable by pushing; and

a means for changing, when a specific input button displayed on the touch panel is pushed, the appearance of input buttons at least adjacent to the specific input button;

wherein the appearance changing means changes the appearance of the pushed input button so that input buttons adjacent to the pushed input button will look as if one side thereof adjacent to the pushed input button rotates downward about a second side thereof opposite to the first side while the second side moves toward the pushed input button; and

wherein the appearance changing means changes the appearance of the pushed input button and surrounding input buttons including input buttons adjacent to the pushed input button so that these input buttons will look as if they sank spherically about the pushed input button toward the pushing direction.

2. (Currently Amended) The display device as set forth in claim 1, wherein the appearance changing means changes the appearance of a plurality of input buttons, ~~if any,~~ adjacent to the pushed input button so that all the adjacent input buttons will look as if they were convergent toward the pushed input button.

3-4. (Cancelled).

5. (Currently Amended) The display device as set forth in claim 1, wherein the appearance changing means changes the appearance of input buttons adjacent to the pushed ~~one~~ input button so that these adjacent input buttons will blink.

6. (Currently Amended) The display device as set forth in claim 1, wherein the appearance changing means gradually changes the appearance of input buttons adjacent to the pushed ~~one~~ input button.

7. (Currently Amended) A display device comprising:
a touch panel;
a first storage means having stored therein data for displaying a plurality of input buttons on the touch panel;
a second storage means having stored therein data on the input buttons to be changed in appearance when one of the input buttons is pushed in association with the pushed input button and for each pushed input button;
a third storage means having stored therein data on a manner of changing in appearance of each of the input buttons which are to be changed in appearance when one of the input buttons is pushed for each pushed input button; and

a means for identifying ones of the input buttons which are to be changed in appearance on the basis of the data stored in the second storage means when one of the input buttons is pushed and changing the appearance of the identified input buttons on the basis of the data stored in the third storage means;

wherein the third storage means stores data for changing the appearance of the pushed input button so that input buttons adjacent to the pushed input button will look as if one side thereof adjacent to the pushed input button rotates downward about a second side thereof opposite to the first side while the second side moves toward the pushed input button.

8. (Original) The display device as set forth in claim 7, further comprising an editing means for editing the data stored in the second and third storage means.

9. (New) A display device comprising:

a touch panel;

a first storage means having stored therein data for displaying a plurality of input buttons on the touch panel;

a second storage means having stored therein data on the input buttons to be changed in appearance when one of the input buttons is pushed in association with the pushed input button and for each pushed input button;

a third storage means having stored therein data on a manner of changing in appearance of each of the input buttons which are to be changed in appearance when one of the input buttons is pushed for each pushed input button; and

a means for identifying ones of the input buttons which are to be changed in appearance on the basis of the data stored in the second storage means when one of the input buttons is pushed and changing the appearance of the identified input buttons on the basis of the data stored in the third storage means;
wherein the third storage means stores data for changing the appearance of the pushed input button and surrounding input buttons including input buttons adjacent to the pushed input button so that these input buttons will look as if they sank spherically about the pushed input button toward the pushing direction.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-2, and 5-9 are allowed.
4. Claims 3-4 are cancelled and New Independent Claim 9 is added.
5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior arts fails to teach a display device comprising: **a means for changing, when a specific input button displayed on the touch panel is pushed, the appearance of input buttons at least adjacent to the specific input button; wherein the appearance changing means changes the appearance of the pushed input button so that input buttons adjacent to the pushed input button will look as if one side thereof**

adjacent to the pushed input button rotates downward about a second side thereof opposite to the first side while the second side moves toward the pushed input button; and wherein the appearance changing means changes the appearance of the pushed input button and surrounding input buttons including input buttons adjacent to the pushed input button so that these input buttons will look as if they sank spherically about the pushed input button toward the pushing direction as claimed in Claim 1.

6. The prior arts fails to teach a display device comprising: a touch panel;
a second storage means having stored therein data on the input buttons to be changed in appearance when one of the input buttons is pushed in association with the pushed input button and for each pushed input button;
a third storage means having stored therein data on a manner of changing in appearance of each of the input buttons which are to be changed in appearance when one of the input buttons is pushed for each pushed input button; and
a means for identifying ones of the input buttons which are to be changed in appearance on the basis of the data stored in the second storage means when one of the input buttons is pushed and changing the appearance of the identified input buttons on the basis of the data stored in the third storage means;
wherein the third storage means stores data for changing the appearance of the pushed input button so that input buttons adjacent to the pushed input

Art Unit: 2629

button will look as if one side thereof adjacent to the pushed input button rotates downward about a second side thereof opposite to the first side while the second side moves toward the pushed input button as claimed in Claim 7.

7. The prior arts fails to teach a display device comprising: a touch panel;

a second storage means having stored therein data on the input buttons to be changed in appearance when one of the input buttons is pushed in association with the pushed input button and for each pushed input button;

a third storage means having stored therein data on a manner of changing in appearance of each of the input buttons which are to be changed in appearance when one of the input buttons is pushed for each pushed input button; and

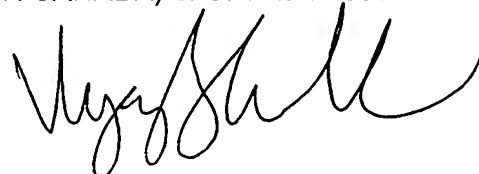
a means for identifying ones of the input buttons which are to be changed in appearance on the basis of the data stored in the second storage means when one of the input buttons is pushed and changing the appearance of the identified input buttons on the basis of the data stored in the third storage means; wherein the third storage means stores data for changing the appearance of the pushed input button and surrounding input buttons including input buttons adjacent to the pushed input button so that these input buttons will look as if they sank spherically about the pushed input button toward the pushing direction as claimed in Claim 9.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to VIJAY SHANKAR whose telephone number is (571) 272-7682. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:00 am - 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, BIPIN SHALWALA can be reached on (571) 272-7681. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



VIJAY SHANKAR
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2629